

GROWING IN SMALL SPACES – HANDOUT

Rachel Kalauokalani

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Methods to use for more productivity in your small garden

Succession Planting:

Generally speaking, succession planting methods need to be planned for at the beginning of the year. Knowing maturity dates and knowing the season that a vegetable needs to be planted and characteristics of a plant will help with succession planting, e.g. is it a tall plant, is it a slow or fast grower, does it have shallow or wide root ball?

Continual planting: As soon as one vegetable is harvested another is put in its place. This requires that you plan for the maturity and harvesting of one vegetable and the preparation of transplants, or the direct seeding of the crop following the harvested vegetables.

Relay planting: Planting on staggered dates, e.g. transplant in your first round of lettuce and at the same time seed the second planting. Another way to do it is to seed your first planting of vegetables and 2 weeks later seed a second planting of the same crop and if you want a 3rd crop wait another 2 weeks and seed again.

Non-competing: Planting two or more vegetables in the same area that have different maturity dates, different height, different root growth and different size.

Maturity dates: Planting vegetables that have different maturity dates in the same area. For example, potatoes have an early mid and late variety. In essence, you will be planting 3 different varieties to maintain a steady crop thru the growing season. You would plant them all at the same time, marking out which area was which variety. You allow them to grow and some would be ready at 30 days, some at 60 days, and some at 90 days.

Miniature plants: Consider using miniatures in your garden.

This solves the problem of growing some of the vegetables that you love but don't grow them because the regular plant's habitat is overwhelming for a small garden.

Look for dwarf, patio plants or seeds which are also called "mini" versions in some seed catalogs.

Pros: you will be able to grow your most beloved vegetables in a small garden. Breeders are now turning their attention to breeding smaller versions for patios or apartment living so each year there are more and more varieties available.

Cons: some of the dwarf varieties are too small. I have seen beets the size of a tiny radish- this size is too small. We are growing to eat, not for the cute factor. Also, be aware when buying seed of some of the new mini varieties. If you plan to save seed from any dwarf or minis, make sure the seed does not have F1 (Filial 1 – first generation of seeds) listed. This is a designation that the seed is a hybrid and will not produce clean off-spring, the seed has not yet been stabilized. If saving for seed, make sure you buy Open Pollinated seed, designated OP.

Trellising:

Trellising is a really important practice when growing in a small garden to help open up space that would be taken up by vines sprawling on the ground. This will clear space around the base of the plant where you can put in a few more non-competing plants. Always make sure to take advantage of the vertical space when you can.

You can trellis winter squash and even melon. When the melon start putting on some size you may need to make slings for them to help with weight distribution. You can make these out of old T-shirt material or fabric. Tie these to your trellis and tuck the fruit inside them.

Companion Planting:

Companion planting helps in the garden especially when planting flowers or herbs. Both flowers and herbs help attract beneficial insects, which in turn help with pollination in your garden. Some plants rely solely on pollination in order to set fruit, such as some squash. If the flower remains un-pollinated, the fruit will not grow and that is a waste of space. The scent of some herbs and flowers also help to deter some pests that attack your vegetables - which is always good.

COOL SEASON VEGETABLE – Fast/ Slow Growers

Vegetable	Season	Transplant or Direct	No of weeks to Transpl.	Spacing	height	days to Maturity
Radish DS	SP/Fall	Mar - May, Sept - Oct	none	2 - 3"	4 - 12"	25 - 30 days
Arugula TR Arugula DS	SP/Fall	Feb - May, Sept - Oct Mar - May, Aug - Oct	4 weeks	3 - 4"	36"	40 - 45 days
Dill DS	SP/Fall	March - May	none	6 - 10"	24 - 48"	40 - 55 days
Mustard TR Mustard DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	6 - 8"	16 - 24"	40 - 50 days
Spinach TR Spinach DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Mar - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	2 - 4"	8 - 12"	40 - 50 days
Rutabaga TR Rutabaga DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Mar - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	6 - 8"	12 - 15"	40 - 60 days
Kohlrabi TR Kohlrabi DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Mar, Sept - Oct Feb - Mar, Sept - Oct	6 weeks	6"	9 - 15"	45 - 60 days
Turnips TR Turnips DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Mar - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	2 - 4"	12 - 15"	49 - 60 days
Bok Choy TR Bok Choy DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct	3 weeks	6 - 12"	6 - 24"	50 - 70 days
Chard TR Chard DS	SP/Fall	Feb - May, Sept - Oct Feb - May, Sept	4 weeks	6 - 12"	12"	50 - 75 days
Cilantro TR Cilantro DS	SP/Fall	Feb - May, Sept - Oct March - May, Aug - Oct	4 weeks	6 - 8"	18 - 24"	50 - 55 days
Kale TR Kale DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Mar - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	10 - 12"	24"	50 - 70 days
Beets TR Beets DS	SP/Fall	Feb - May, Sept - Oct Mar - Apr, Aug - Sept	6 weeks	2 - 3"	12"	55 - 65 days
Collards TR Collards DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct	6 weeks	10 - 18" varies	24 - 36"	55 - 85 days

COOL SEASON VEGETABLES – Fast/ Slow Growers

Vegetable	Season	Transplant or Direct	No of weeks to Transpl.	Spacing	height	days to Maturity
Broccoli TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Aug - Sept	6weeks	18 - 24"	18-24"	60 - 80 days
Cauliflower TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept	6 weeks	12 - 15"	12 - 36"	60 -75 days
Head lettuce		Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	10 - 12"	8 - 10"	60 -85 days
Head lettuce		Mar - Apr, Sept - Oct				40 - 70 days
Leaf Lettuce TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct	4 weeks	6"	15"	days
Lettuce DS		Mar - Apr, Sept - Oct				
Peas TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Mar, Sept - Oct	3 weeks	2"		60 - 70 days
Peas DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Mar, Aug - Sept				
peas shelling	SP/Fall				28 - 32	
Peas snow	SP/Fall				18 - 24	
Peas - Snap	SP/Fall				60 - 72"	
Cabbage TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Aug - Sept	6weeks	9 - 12"	12 - 24"	70 - 120 days
Napa C TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Aug - Oct	3 weeks	6 - 12"	12 - 24"	70 - 90 days
Napa C DS		Feb - Apr, Aug - Oct				
Carrots DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept	none	2 - 3"	6 - 12"	70 - 95 days
Parsley TR	SP	Feb - May	9 weeks	4 - 6"		70 - 90 days
Fava DS	SP/Fall	February, Aug - Sept	none			80 - 100 days
Potatoes TR	SP			8 - 12"	24" vining	80 - 120 days
Fennel TR	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct	6 weeks	12 -24"	24 - 84"	90 - 112 days
Fennel DS		Feb - Apr, Sept - Oct				
Parsnip DS	SP/Fall	Feb - Apr, Sept	none	3 - 4"	10 - 15"	95 - 120 days

Quick growing vegetables are vegetables that mature in less than 60 days. Always make sure to read the seed packet to ensure the timing of the variety of vegetable you are planting. Maturity dates change from variety to variety.

WARM SEASON VEGETABLES - Fast / Slow Growers

Vegetable	Season	Transplant or Direct	No of weeks to Transpl.	Spacing	height	days to Maturity
Summer Squash	Summer	May - July	3 weeks	8 -24"	24-30"	40 - 55 days
Summer Squash	Summer	May - July			vining	
Basil TR	Summer	Transplant	6 weeks	1 - 18"	18 - 24"	50 - 75 days
Beans bush TR	Summer	April - June	3 weeks	2 -4"	24"	50 - 60 days
Beans DS	Summer	May - June				
Beans Pole	Summer				4 - 6"	120-180"
Cucumber TR	Summer	May - June	4 weeks	8 - 10"	48 -72"	50 - 65 days
Cucumber DS	Summer	May - June				
Okra - TR	Summer	June - July	4 weeks	10 - 12"	36 - 48"	55 - 65 days
Okra - DS	Summer	June				
Corn - Direct	Summer	May - June	none	8 - 10"	72-96"	65 - 90 days
Peppers	Summer	May - June	8 weeks	12 - 15"	18 - 24"	65 - 95 days
Tomato	Summer	May - June		6 weeks		
Eggplant - TR	Summer	May - June	8 weeks	12-18"	18 - 24"	75 - 90 days
Melons	Summer	May - June	4 weeks	12-15"	15 - 24"	80 - 100 days
Melons	Summer	May - June				
Winter Squash	Summer	May - June	3 weeks	24 - 36"	10 - 12"	85 - 120 days
Winter Squash	Summer	May - June				

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